

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 056119
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

13AF CLARK AFB PI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 056119

NODIS

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR, FOR PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION

FOLLOWINF REPEAT VIENTIANE 512 9 140950Z MAR 77 ACTION
SECSTATE

QUOTE S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0512

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP OREP SOPN AFSP LA US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION VISIT TO LPDR

REFS: A) STATE 55991, B) STATE 53599, C) STATE 51144,
D) STATE 56062

1. LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS MARCH 14 TOLD US FIVE
JOURNALISTS WERE AUTHORIZED TO VISIT WITH COMMISSION AND
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THAT THERE WAS "NO PROBLEM" OF VISAS FOR MEMBERS OF COMMISSION,
STAFF, JOURNALISTS, AND CREW., I.E., VISAS NEED NOT RPT NOT
BE OBTAINED AT LAO EMBASSY IN HANOI.

2. COMMISSION, STAFF, AND JOURNALISTS TOTALING 21 PERSONS
WILL BE HOUSED IN LANE XANG (MILLION ELEPHANTS) HOTEL,
VIENTIANE'S BEST ALTHOUGH NOT ELEGANT. PAYMENT WILL BE IN

US DOLLARS. DOLLARS MAY BE EXCHANGE AT HOTEL AT OFFICIAL
RATE OF 200 KIP PER DOLLAR.

3. THERE IS A PRESENT NO COMMERICAL FLIGHT EXCEPT
AEROFLOT TO RANGOON AT 1635 SATURDAY BY WHICH ON-BOARD
PRESS COULD SEND ARRIVAL FILM OUT OF COUNTRY. OTHER
POSSIBILITY IS FOR EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER TO TAKE FILM
ACROSS MEKONG RIVER TO NONGKHAI IN THAILAND FOR PICKUP
BY AMCONSUL UDORN TO PUT ON THAI AIRWAYS FLIGHT TO
BANGKOK AT 1305 SATURDAY. TRIP TO UDORN WILL TAKE ABOUT
TWO HOURS.

4. WE HAVE ASKED LAO FOR STEP FOR PLANE AND, AS SOON
AS WE RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF AIRCRAFT TYPE, TAIL NUMBER, CALL
SIGN, RADIO FREQUENCY, AND CREW, WE WILL SEND NOT ASKING FOR
FLIGHT CLEARANCE AND GROUND POWER CART AND JET AIR
STARTER, IF AVAILABLE.

5. MAJOR PROBLEM REMAINING IS ESTABLISHING FIRM DATES FOR
VISIT. WE HAVE TOLD LAO THAT IN RESPONSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S
LETTER TO SECRETARY COMMISSION PLANS ARRIVE MARCH 19 AND
LEAVE MARCH 20, OR MARCH 21, IF LAO WISH. LAO OFFICIALS,
HOWEVER, SAID THEY WERE EXPECTING COMMISSION MARCH 20 TO
MARCH 21, DATES WE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. WE HAVE ASKED THEM
TO GET THIS STRAIGHTENED OUT MARCH 14 OR MARCH 15 AT LATEST
SINCE IT WILL BE EASIER TO CONTACT COMMISSION BEFORE IT
GOES INTO HANOI.

6. WE ALSO TOLD LAO THAT WE EXPECTED THEM MAKE PROPOSALS
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FOR SCHEDULE BUT THAT, SUBJECT TO THEIR VIEWS, WE
SUGGESTED MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OR OTHER
APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS MARCH 19 AND
APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG MARCH 19 OR 20.
CORCORAN
UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

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